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United Nations

United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum

First universal session
(18-22 February 2013)

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(Nairobi, 18-22 February 2013)

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Introduction

1. The twenty-seventh and first universal session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 18 February 2013, by Mr. D. Federico Ramos de Armas, President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

3. The President informed the representatives that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 the Governing Council at its first universal session would use its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly pending the adoption of new rules of procedure consistent with its newly established universal membership.

4. In line with the practice of the General Assembly, he invited the Council to observe one minute of silence for reflection and subsequently he delivered opening remarks.

5. Opening statements were then delivered by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.[1]

II. Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

6. The following Member States were represented at the session: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan,

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[1] A fuller account of the discussions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its first universal session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Council/Forum's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is contained in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17).

Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

7. The Holy See and the State of Palestine were represented as observers.

8. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ozone Secretariat, Secretary General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service, United Nations Office for Project Services, UN Women, World Food Programme, World Meteorological Organization.

9. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Labour Organization, World Bank.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, African Union Commission, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, Global Environment Facility, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Interpol, League of Arab States, Organization of American States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

11. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers. A full list of participants is set out in document UNEP/GC.27/INF/22.

B. Election of officers

12. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on 18 February, the Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:

Mr. Hassan Abdelgadir Hilal (Sudan)

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu (Japan)
Mr. Antonio Otávio Ricarte (Brazil)
Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway)

Rapporteur:

Ms. Beata Jaczewska (Poland)

13. In this regard, at the last plenary meeting on 22 February 2013, upon request by the group of Latin American and the Caribbean States, election was undertaken to elect Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Peru) succeeding Mr. Ricarte as a Vice-President. Mr. Pulgar will hold the office of the Vice President until a subsequent election.

C. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

14. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 147 of the 193 United Nations Member States and two observers — the Holy See and the State of Palestine — attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Governing Council, which approved the report at its 7th plenary meeting, on 22 February 2013.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda

15. At the 1st plenary meeting, the council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at it twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
    (a) Election of officers;
    (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
    (a) State of the environment;
    (b) Emerging policy issues;
    (c) International environmental governance;
    (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
    (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
    (f) Environment and development.

5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.

6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.

7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

   (a) Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

   (b) Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the session.

16. In introducing the provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.27/1) the President noted that, in the light of its mandate at the current session to make recommendations on its future designation and arrangements consistent with its new universal membership, when taking up agenda item 7 the Council would not be limited to discussing arrangements for its thirteenth special session and twenty eighth ordinary session.

2. Organization of work

17. At its 1st plenary meeting the Governing Council agreed that it would use its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly pending the adoption of new rules of procedure consistent with its newly established universal membership. It also agreed that, in accordance with rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the presence of at least one third of the members of the Council would be required to permit the President to declare a meeting open and to permit debate to proceed. The presence of a majority of the members would be required for any decision to be taken. Pursuant to rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the committees of the General Assembly, the presence of at least one fourth of the members of any sessional bodies established at the current session would be required for the chair of any such body to declare a meeting open and to permit debate to proceed. A majority of the members of any such body would be required for the taking of any decision.

18. At the same plenary meeting, the Council considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations of the Executive Director contained in document UNEP/GC.27/1/Add.1 as agreed by the Bureau.

19. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, as agreed by the Bureau, it was decided that beginning on the afternoon of Monday 18 February, through the afternoon of Wednesday 20 February, the plenary meetings would take the form of ministerial consultations on agenda item 4 (b) (Policy issues: emerging policy issues, namely, the theme "Rio+20: from outcome to implementation". It was further agreed that the ministerial consultations would comprise a mix of plenary meetings and roundtable discussions.

20. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a Committee of the Whole and a working group on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure. The two sessional committees would begin their work as soon as possible after the Committee of the Whole had completed its general discussion of relevant subjects. The Committee of the Whole would consider agenda items 4 (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f) and 5-8. The remaining items on the agenda would be considered by the Council in plenary meeting on the final day of the session. It was further decided that an informal friends of the President group would be formed to assist the President in preparing a summary of the ministerial consultations. The Committee of the Whole and the friends of the President group would be open-ended, but each of the regional groups and the Group of 77 and China would nominate two core members for each group.

21. In addition it was decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Council, under Rule 37 of its rules of procedure, would limit statements by delegations to five minutes in length and those of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to three minutes in order to maximize the number of those who could speak.

22. It was also decided, in the interests of time and to maximize the number of speakers on the theme of the ministerial consultations, that all delegation wishing to deliver statements should provide them in writing to the secretariat for distribution to all delegations through the session's dedicated website.

E. Policy statement by the Executive Director

23. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement, a summary of which may be found in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17).

F. Ministerial consultations

24. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the morning of 18 February, the Governing Council began its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), emerging policy issues, in the form of ministerial consultations, focusing on the strengthening of UNEP as called for in paragraph 88 of the "The future we want" and in General Assembly resolution 67/213. The ministerial consultations began at the 2nd plenary meeting with a keynote address by Princess Lalla Hasna of Morocco, followed by a panel discussion.

25. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of 19 February, the Governing Council continued its consideration of item 4 (b) with discussions on institutional and substantive matters, including on the nature of the green economy. The ministerial consultations then broke into three round-table discussions, which continued during the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 19 February, on responsiveness to country needs; the science-policy interface; secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources for meeting the mandate of UNEP; stakeholder participation; ministerial participation; environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development; the contribution of UNEP to meeting sustainable development goals; and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. Between the 3rd and 4th plenary meetings a lunchtime dialogue was held on the subject of the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

26. At the 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of 20 February, ministers and other heads of delegation held a consultation with the Executive Director on key issues pertaining to the enhanced status of UNEP and universal membership of the Governing Council. Prior to the 5th plenary meeting regional ministerial consultations were held on the subject of regional environmental challenges and the presence of UNEP in the regions and its responsiveness to country needs.

27. At the 6th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 20 February, the chairs and co-chairs of the roundtable discussions presented summaries of those discussions. The President then presented a comprehensive summary of the ministerial consultations, of which the Governing Council took note.

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

28. The Committee of the Whole held 11 meetings, from 18 to 22 February 2013, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Governing Council, on 22 February, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex IV to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17).

H. Introduction of the draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

29. Mr. Geert Aagaard Andersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to UNEP and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented the draft decisions prepared by the Committee (UNEP/GC.27/L.1) for the consideration of the Council. Highlighting the collaborative process by which the draft decisions had been prepared and the challenges that it had entailed, he said that while there were differences among Member States, as reflected in square brackets around certain provisions of the draft decisions, there was general agreement on the need to maintain the momentum of Rio+20 and a strong shared desire to strengthen UNEP.

30. Following the presentation of the draft decisions, the representative of the United States of America expressed pleasure at being at the current historic session of the Council and at the long advocated reforms addressed in paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document. Further structural reforms were needed, however, to ensure a robust, responsive Member-State-driven UNEP, including the review and approval by the Governing Council of the strategic framework before its transmittal to United Nations Headquarters; the establishment of a regionally representative subsidiary body to undertake performance and financial reviews; and a clearer and better defined role for the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the power to take intersessional decisions at the request of the Governing Council and to develop the strategic framework, programme of work and budget. Changes were also needed in the frequency of ministerial sessions and steps were needed to enhance the participation of all stakeholders. She also voiced concern at the election of the President of the Governing Council, as his country was the subject of United Nations sanctions and had a history of human rights violations and obstructing United Nations interventions in response thereto.

31. The representative of Canada said that the results of the Rio+20 Conference had moved matters forward on international environmental governance and that UNEP could benefit from governance structures that were fully open, transparent and participatory. He looked forward to an-depth discussion related to a number of elements identified in "The future we want" on improving the governance of UNEP so that it could provide the necessary leadership on international environmental issues in every part of the world. He expressed concern with the election of Sudan to chair the current session, noting that countries occupying positions of leadership in the United Nations system should uphold its values, which Sudan, which was under Security Council sanction and was restricting United Nations operations within its territory, did not do.

32. The representative of Malaysia, noting that his countryman Mr. Zakri Abdul Hamid was the first Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, said that his country would submit a draft decision relating to the secretariat of the Platform.

III. Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council

A. President's summary of the ministerial consultations

33. At the 6th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20 February, the President of the Council/Forum presented a draft summary of the views expressed during the consultations on each theme considered during the first universal session of the Council/Forum. He said that the summary reflected the variety of views expressed during the ministerial consultations and did not constitute a consensus text.

34. The Council took note of the President's summary, which is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17).

B. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

35. By its decision 27/15, the Council decided to hold the next session of the governing body of UNEP at its headquarters in Nairobi on dates to be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the governing body and Member States. In the same decision, the Council requested the Committee of Permanent Representatives to contribute to the preparation of the provisional agenda for the session.

C. Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/213

36. By its decision 27/1, the Council adopted new rules of procedure in accordance with the mandate provided to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012.

37. By its decision 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Council invited the General Assembly to adopt a resolution changing the name of

the governing body of UNEP from the "Governing Council" to the "United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme". The General Assembly subsequently adopted resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013, by which it changed the name of the governing body of UNEP in accordance with decision 27/2.

38. By decision 27/2 the Council also decided that the newly named governing body of UNEP would henceforth convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis, starting in 2014, and decided to discontinue the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It also decided that the governing body would ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders and that an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives would serve as the intersessional subsidiary body of the governing body.

D. Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production

39. By its decision 27/7, the Council requested the Executive Director to take the necessary action to enable UNEP to serve as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and to carry out its functions pursuant to paragraphs 4 (a) and 6 (b) of the framework.

40. By the same decision, the Council recognized the function of the Economic and Social Council to act as the ad interim body to which the secretariat of the framework and the small board, as established in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the framework, would report on a biennial and annual basis, respectively.

41. By the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to elaborate for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a proposal on the duration of the subsequent terms of the board of the framework after it had served its initial two-year term.

E. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

42. By its decision 27/8, the Council invited countries to implement the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, taking into account section 3 of "The future we want".

F. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015

43. By its decision 27/13, the Council approved the programme of work for the biennium 2014 2015 and appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of $245 million.

44. By the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General in the preparation of his 2014-2015 budget submission to keep the resource needs of UNEP under review, together with those of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to permit the effective delivery of necessary services.

IV. Adoption of decisions

45. At its 7th plenary meeting the Governing Council adopted the following decisions:

Decision No.	Title
27/1	New rules of procedure of the Governing Council
27/2	Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
27/3	International water quality guidelines for ecosystems
27/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
27/5	Coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group
27/6	Oceans
27/7	Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production
27/8	Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
27/9	Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability
27/10	Climate technology centre and network
27/11	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges
27/12	Chemicals and waste management
27/13	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2014-2017 biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015
27/14	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
27/15	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

V. Policy issues (agenda item 4)

A. State of the environment

B. Emerging policy issues

C. International environmental governance

D. Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters

E. Coordination and cooperation with major groups

F. Environment and development

VI. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)

VII. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (agenda item 6)

VIII. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 7)

A. Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

B. Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

IX. Other matters (agenda item 8)

46. Agenda items 4-8 (save for sub-item 4 (b), which was the subject of the ministerial consultations referred to above in section F of chapter II) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the deliberations of the Committee is set out in annex IV to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17). The decisions adopted by the Governing Council on the items are set out in annex I to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.27/17) and are listed in chapter IV above.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

47. At its 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 22 February 2013, the Governing Council adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/GC.27/L.3 and Add.1, 2 and 3, on the understanding that it would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

XI. Closure of the session

48. The twenty-seventh and first universal session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was declared closed at 9.25 p.m. on Friday, 22 February 2013.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh and first universal session

Decision No.	Title
27/1	New rules of procedure of the Governing Council
27/2	Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
27/3	International water quality guidelines for ecosystems
27/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
27/5	Coordination across the United Nations system including the Environment Management Group
27/6	Oceans
27/7	Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production
27/8	Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
27/9	Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability
27/10	Climate technology centre and network
27/11	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges
27/12	Chemicals and waste management
27/13	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2014-2017 biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015
27/14	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
27/15	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

Decision 27/1: New rules of procedure of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Adopts its rules of procedure set out below.

Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

I. Sessions

Regular sessions

Rule 1

The Governing Council shall normally hold one regular session every two years.

Date of opening of regular sessions

Rule 2

Each regular session of the Governing Council shall be held, subject to the provisions of rule 3, at a date fixed by the Governing Council at its previous session in such a way as to enable the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the report of the Governing Council in the same year.

Rule 3

Five members of the Governing Council or the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme may request an alteration of the date of a regular session. In either case, the Executive Director shall forthwith communicate the request to the other members of the Governing Council, together with appropriate observations, including financial implications, if any. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene the Governing Council accordingly.

Place of regular sessions

Rule 4

Regular sessions shall be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council at a previous session.

Special sessions

Rule 5

1. Special sessions shall be held pursuant to a decision taken by the Governing Council at a regular session, or at the request of:

(a) A majority of the members of the Governing Council;

(b) The General Assembly;

(c) The Economic and Social Council.

2. Special sessions may also be requested by:

(a) Five States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whether or not they are members of the Governing Council;

(b) The President of the Governing Council with the concurrence of the other members of the Bureau of the Governing Council and in consultation with the Executive Director.

3. In such cases, the Executive Director shall immediately inform all members of the Governing Council of the request, as well as of the approximate costs and relevant administrative considerations, and shall inquire whether they concur in it. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene a special session of the Governing Council.

Date of opening of special sessions

Rule 6

Special sessions of the Governing Council shall normally be convened within forty-two days of the receipt by the Executive Director of a request for such a session, at a date and place fixed by the President of the Governing Council in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, taking into account such observations as may have been made in the request for a special session.

Notification of date of opening

Rule 7

The Executive Director shall communicate the date of the first meeting of each session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the Governing Council, as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly when the Assembly is in session, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the appropriate United Nations bodies, the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below and the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below. Such notification shall be sent:

(a) In the case of a regular session, at least forty-two days in advance;

(b) In the case of a special session, at least fourteen days in advance of the date fixed in accordance with rule 6 above.

Adjournment of session

Rule 8

The Governing Council may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

II. Agenda

Drawing up of the provisional agenda for a regular session

Rule 9

1. The Executive Director shall submit to the Governing Council at each regular session the provisional agenda for the following regular session. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by:

(a) The Governing Council;

(b) A State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(c) The General Assembly;

(d) The Economic and Social Council;

(e) The Executive Director.

2. Items proposed under (b) above shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents which shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least forty-nine days prior to the opening of the session.

3. In drawing up the provisional agenda, the Executive Director shall take account of suggestions made by the Environment coordination Board, a specialized agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, an appropriate United Nations body, or an intergovernmental organization referred to in rule 68 below. The Executive Director shall also consider suggestions from the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below.

Communication of the provisional agenda

Rule 10

After the Governing Council has considered the provisional agenda for the following session, the provisional agenda, incorporating any amendments made by the Governing Council, shall be communicated by the Executive Director to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the Governing Council as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly when the Assembly is in session, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below and the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below.

Supplementary items

Rule 11

The inclusion of supplementary items in the provisional agenda considered by the Governing Council may be proposed by any authority entitled to propose items under paragraph 1 of rule 9. The request for inclusion of a supplementary item shall be supported by a statement from the authority proposing it, except in the case of the General Assembly, regarding the urgency of the consideration of the item. The Executive Director shall communicate to the Governing Council any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items received before the commencement of the regular session, together with such observations as the Executive Director may wish to make.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 12

1. At the beginning of each regular session, subject to the provisions of rule 15 and after the election of officers when required under rule 18, the Governing Council shall adopt its agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda and any supplementary items proposed in accordance with rule 11.

2. A State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency which has requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda under rule 9 or 11 above shall be entitled to be heard by the Governing Council on the inclusion of the item in the agenda for the session.

3. The Governing Council shall normally include in its agenda for the session only items for which adequate documentation has been circulated to members at least forty-two days before the beginning of the regular session of the Governing Council.

Allocation of items

Rule 13

The Governing Council may allocate items among the plenary meetings of the Governing Council and sessional committees and working parties, if any, set up in accordance with rule 60, and may refer items without preliminary debate in the Governing Council to:

(a) One or more of its subsidiary organs, if any, set up in accordance with rule 62, for examination and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council;

(b) The Executive Director, for study and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council; or

(c) The proposer of the item, for further information or documentation.

Provisional agenda for a special session

Rule 14

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session. It shall be transmitted to the authorities mentioned in rule 10 at the same time as the notice convening the Governing Council.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 15

During a regular session, the Governing Council may revise the agenda for the session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only items which the Governing Council considers to be urgent and important shall be added to its agenda during the session.

III. Representation and credentials

Rule 16

Each member of the Governing Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 17

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend.

2. The Bureau of the Governing Council shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Governing Council. This rule shall not, however, prevent a member from changing its representative, alternate representatives, or advisers subsequently, subject to proper submission and examination of credentials, where needed.

IV. Officers

Elections

Rule 18

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Governing Council shall elect a President, three Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Governing Council. The Bureau shall assist the President in the general conduct of business of the Governing Council. The Chairpersons of such sessional committees or working parties as may be established under rule 60 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau.

2 In electing its officers, the Governing Council shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

3. The Offices of President and Rapporteur of the Governing Council shall normally be subject to rotation among the five groups of States referred to in section 1, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Terms of office

Rule 19

The President, the Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. Subject to the provisions of rule 18, they shall be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which the officer concerned is a representative.

Acting President

Rule 20

If the President cannot preside at a meeting or any part thereof, the President shall appoint a Vice-President to take his place.

Replacement of the President

Rule 21

If the President ceases to be a representative of a member of the Governing Council or is unable to perform President's functions, or if the State of which the President is a representative ceases to be a member of the Governing Council, the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents as Acting President.

Powers of the Acting President

Rule 22

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 23

In the case of a member of the Governing Council, which is for the time being represented by the President, an alternate representative shall, at the discretion of the President, be permitted to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the Governing Council. In such a case the President shall not exercise the right to vote.

V. Secretariat

Duties of the Executive Director

Rule 24

The Executive Director shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary organs, if any. The Executive Director may designate any officer of the secretariat to act as the representative of the Executive Director.

Rule 25

The Executive Director shall direct the staff required by the Governing Council and any subsidiary organs which may be established by it.

Rule 26

The Executive Director shall be responsible for performing those functions in relation to the Governing Council which the Executive Director is required to undertake by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Rule 27

The Executive Director, or the Executive Director's representative, may, subject to rule 32, make oral as well as written statements to the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any, concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 28

The Executive Director shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary organs, including the preparation and distribution of documents at least forty-two days in advance of the sessions of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any.

Duties of the Secretariat

Rule 29

The secretariat shall interpret speeches made at meetings; shall receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs; shall publish and circulate the resolutions, reports and relevant documentation of the Governing Council. It shall have the custody of the documents in the archives of the Governing Council and generally perform all other work which the Governing Council may require.

Estimates of expenditures

Rule 30

1. Before any proposal which involves expenditure from United Nations funds, including the resources of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), is approved by the Governing Council or by any of its subsidiary organs, the Executive Director shall circulate to all members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, as early as possible, a report from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in terms of Financial Regulations 2.10 and 2.11, on the estimated costs involved as well as on administrative and budgetary implications with reference to existing authorizations and appropriations in accordance with the provisions of section II, paragraph 3, and section III of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

2. The Governing Council shall take into account the estimates referred to in paragraph 1 before adopting any proposal involving expenditure from United Nations funds including the resources of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme. If the proposal is adopted, the Governing Council shall indicate, whenever appropriate, the priority or degree of urgency which it attaches to the projects and, as the case may be, which current projects may be deferred, modified, or eliminated to ensure that the work of the United Nations Environment Programme will be carried on most effectively.

3. The Executive Director shall submit to the Governing Council in each odd-numbered year, for the following biennium, the estimates of expenditure of the United Nations Environment Programme borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. The Executive Director shall also submit to the Governing Council estimates of expenditures borne by the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the General Procedures formulated by the Governing Council under section III, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), and the Financial Rules of the said Fund.

VI. Conduct of business

Quorum

Rule 31

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members of the Governing Council are present. The presence of a majority of the members of the Governing Council shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Powers of the President

Rule 32

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Governing Council, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Governing Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. The President may propose to the Governing Council the limitation of time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak on any question, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. The President may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or of the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 33

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Governing Council.

Speeches

Rule 34

No person may address the Governing Council without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 35 and 36, the president shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if remarks of the speaker are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 35

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Rapporteur of a sessional committee or working party, or a designated representative of any subsidiary organ, may be accorded precedence in speaking for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by the sessional committee, working party or subsidiary organ concerned and for the purpose of replying to questions.

Points of order

Rule 36

1. During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

2. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time limit on speeches

Rule 37

The Governing Council may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each person may speak on any question, except on procedural questions, when the President shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a speaker has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 38

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Governing Council, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in the opinion of the President, a speech delivered after the President has declared the list closed renders this justified. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President, with the consent of the Governing Council, shall declare the debate closed.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 39

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 40

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified wish to speak of that representative. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Governing Council is in favour of the closure, the President shall declare the closure of the debate.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 41

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motion shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote.

Order of procedural motion

Rule 42

Subject to rule 36, and regardless of the order in which they are submitted, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting:

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

Proposals and amendments

Rule 43

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies to the members. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Governing Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the day preceding the meeting. Subject to the consent of the Governing Council, the President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 44

Subject to rule 42, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Governing Council to adopt any proposal or any amendment submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 45

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by another member.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 46

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session of the Governing Council unless the Governing Council, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

VII. Voting

Voting rights

Rule 47

Each member of the Governing Council shall have one vote.

Majority required and meaning of the expression "Members present and voting"

Rule 48

1. Except where the present rules of procedure expressly provide otherwise, decisions of the Governing Council shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

2. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 49

Subject to rule 55 the Governing Council shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Recording of roll call

Rule 50

The vote of each member participating in a roll call shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the Governing Council.

Conduct during voting

Rule 51

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit members to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain the proposer's vote on the proposer's own proposal or amendment.

Division of proposals or amendments

Rule 52

A representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment shall be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Voting on amendments

Rule 53

1. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Governing Council shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

2. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Voting on proposals

Rule 54

1. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Governing Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Governing Council may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before them.

Elections

Rule 55

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council.

Rule 56

1. If, when one person or member only is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Rule 57

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining the required majority on the first ballot shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is more than the number of places to be filled, those candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be elected.

3. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be held additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, who shall number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number.

4. If three restricted ballots are inconclusive, unrestricted ballots shall follow in which votes may be cast for any eligible person or member. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots (subject to exception in the case similar to that of the tie mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph of this rule) shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots. The number of such candidates shall not be more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

5. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted and so on, until the places are filled.

Equally divided votes

Rule 58

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

VIII. Sessional committees, working parties and subsidiary organs of the Governing Council

Rule 59

The Governing Council may establish such sessional committees, working parties and subsidiary organs as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions.

Sessional committees and working parties

Rule 60

1. At each session, the Governing Council may set up sessional committees and working parties, from among its members, and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report.

2. The sessional committees and working parties may set up subcommittees and subgroups of working parties. The member of such subcommittees and subgroups of working parties shall be nominated by the committee or working party concerned.

3. The Chairperson of sessional committee or working groups may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the members of the committee or working group are present. The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.

4. Subject to paragraph 3 above, the provisions of rules 32 to 58 of these rules of procedure shall be applied as appropriate in the proceedings of the sessional committees, working parties and any subcommittees or subgroups set up by them.

Rule 61

Each sessional committee or working party shall elect its own officers, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council. In electing its officer each sessional committee or working party shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Subsidiary organs of the Governing Council and expert groups

Rule 62

1. The Governing Council may establish such subsidiary organs on a permanent or ad hoc basis as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions and, as required, expert groups to consider specific problems and make recommendations.

2. Any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency, whether or not that State is a member of the Governing Council, may become a member of any subsidiary organ of the Governing Council. In determining the size of the subsidiary organs and electing their members, the Governing Council shall take fully into account the desirability of including in the membership of these bodies States with a special interest in the subject matter to be dealt with by them, as well as the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution.

3. The rules of procedure of subsidiary organs shall be those of the Governing Council, as appropriate, subject to such modifications as the Governing Council may decide upon in the light of proposals by the subsidiary organs concerned. Each subsidiary organ shall elect its own officers.

4. Each subsidiary organ, taking into consideration the date of the regular session of the Governing Council and bearing in mind the items referred to it by the Governing Council, may adopt its own priorities within the framework of the work programme established by the Governing Council and, in consultation with the Executive Director, meet as may be necessary.

IX. Languages and records

Rule 63

Languages and interpretation

1. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Governing Council. Speeches made in any of these languages shall be interpreted into the other languages of the Governing Council.

2. Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the Governing Council. In this case the representative shall provide for interpretation

into one of the languages of the Governing Council. Interpretation into the other languages of the Governing Council by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first language of the Governing Council.

Languages and distribution of resolutions, other formal decisions and documents

Rule 64

1. All resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Governing Council, as well as its reports to the General Assembly and other documents, shall be made available in the languages of the Governing Council.

2. The text of the resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions adopted by the Governing Council, its sessional committees and other subsidiary organs, if any, shall be distributed by the secretariat to all members of the Governing Council and any others participating in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions, as well as the reports of the Governing Council to the General Assembly, shall be distributed after the close of the session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 65

Sound recordings of the meetings of the Governing Council and of its sessional committees shall be kept by the secretariat in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Such recordings shall also be made of the proceedings of any subsidiary organs when they so decide.

X. Public and private meetings

Rule 66

The meetings of the Governing Council, its sessional committees and working parties and subsidiary organs, if any, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

XI. Participation of States not members of the Governing Council

Rule 67

Any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency which is not a member of the Governing Council may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council. Any State thus participating shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by request of any member of the Governing Council. The provisions of this rule shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to participation in a subsidiary organ by States not members thereof.

XII. Participation of specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nation bodies and other inter-governmental organizations

Rule 68

1. Representatives of specialized agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and of appropriate United Nations bodies, as well as of the intergovernmental organizations referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) which are designated for this purpose by the Governing Council, may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any, upon the invitation of the President or Chairperson, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

2. Written statements of specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations bodies, as well as of other intergovernmental organizations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or its subsidiary organs, if any, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

XIII. Observers of international non-governmental organizations

Rule 69

1. International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairperson, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, international non-governmental organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.

2. Written statements provided by international non-governmental organizations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or of its subsidiary organs, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements were made available to the secretariat for distribution.

XIV. Amendments and suspensions of rules of procedure

Rule 70

Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Governing Council subject to rules 71 and 72 below.

Rule 71

These rules may not be amended until the Governing Council has received a report on the proposed amendment from a committee or working party of the Governing Council established for that purpose.

Rule 72

A rule of procedure may be suspended by the Governing Council provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects.

Decision 27/2: Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document, "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which invited the General Assembly to adopt at its sixty-seventh session a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme, as outlined in paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)-(h), of the outcome document, and recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 on, inter alia, the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and under which the first universal session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme is held,

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an intergovernmental body established pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Charter, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

3. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme[2] will convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis, starting in 2014, and will carry out its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and all other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration, the 2010 Nusa Dua Declaration and paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the

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[2] The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, whose designation is subject to change pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present decision and a resolution of the General Assembly to that effect.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288;

4. *Decides* to discontinue the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

5. *Decides* that each session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will conclude with a two-day high level segment as an integral part of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will take strategic decisions and provide political guidance and will perform inter alia the following functions:

(a) Setting the global environmental agenda;

(b) Providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;

(c) Undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;

(d) Setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(e) Organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue;

(f) Fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization;

6. *Decides* that the Bureau of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme shall be composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will assist the governing body and perform the functions as set out in the rules of procedure of the governing body;

7. *Decides* that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:

(a) Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;

(b) Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders' expert input and advice;

(c) Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;

8. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will promote a strong science-policy interface by reviewing the state of the environment, by building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including through an enhanced summary for policymakers of the Global Environment Outlook and, in this regard, requests the Executive Director to identify critical gaps and present a report, with recommendations, to the governing body;

9. *Decides* that an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be the intersessional subsidiary body of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme and, in addition to its mandate[3] and in open and transparent manner, will perform the following functions:

(a) Contributing to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body;

(b) Providing advice to its governing body on policy matters;

(c) Preparing decisions for adoption by its governing body and overseeing their implementation;

(d) Convening thematic and/or programmatic debates;

(e) Promoting effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries;

(f) Performing any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;

10. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring support to developing country representatives, to enable the participation of capital-based representatives as well as stakeholders for a period of five days in an even year to contribute to preparation of the agenda of its governing body, and to provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;

11. *Decides* to establish a subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that will meet annually for a period of five days to review, with the support of the secretariat, the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval, and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat;

12. *Decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives will consider the frequency, schedule and programmatic focus of its meetings to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and will improve upon its working methods;

13. *Commits* to progressively consolidate headquarters functions of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and in this context requests the Executive Director to present a report to the governing body at its next session and to include recommendations in the programme of work for the period 2016-2017 to be acted upon and implemented in a timely manner;

14. *Decides* to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's regional presence in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans and in this regard requests the Executive Director to increase the Programme's participation in United Nations country teams;

15. *Stresses* the importance of the regional ministerial environment forums for which the United Nations Environment Programme serves as secretariat, and invites these forums to contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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[3] Governing Council decision 19/32, paragraph 7.

16. *Decides* to consider additional measures to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's voice and ability to fulfil its coordination mandate on environmental matters and, in this regard, invites the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to enhance the United Nations Environment Programme's role in key United Nations coordination bodies;

17. *Decides* to enhance transparency and openness in its work and in this regard requests the Executive Director to establish a written access-to-information policy;

18. *Invites* the Executive Director to continue improving the timeliness and responsiveness to the needs and requests by Member States and recalls the relevant provisions of paragraph 13 of its decision 19/32;

19. *Stresses* the need by no later than 2016 to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and requests the Executive Director to report thereon;

20. *Decides* to implement paragraph 88 (f) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and, in this context, requests the Executive Director to enhance the operationalization of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

21. *Invites* the General Assembly to adopt a resolution to change the designation of the Governing Council along the lines of the text contained in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to decision 27/2: Draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly

Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, concerning institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Also recalling its resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012, on the report on the Governing Council of United Nations Environmental Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV C, "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013, by which the Governing Council recommends to the General Assembly to change its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, it being understood that this change of designation in no way changes, nor will change, the present mandate, aims and purposes of the United Nations Environment Programme or the role and functions of its governing body;

2. *Decides* to change the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Decision 27/3: International water quality guidelines for ecosystems

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS/XII/6 of 22 February 2012, on the world environmental situation, where it is recognized that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of data and regular monitoring, particularly in areas such as freshwater quality and quantity, estuarine and ocean water quality, groundwater depletion, ecosystem services, loss of natural habitat, land degradation and chemicals and wastes,

Recalling its decision 26/14 of 24 February 2011, on revitalizing the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water),

Recalling also the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the Manila Declaration of the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which identifies nutrients, litter and waste water management as priority areas of the Global Programme of Action,

Recalling that 2005-2015 is the United Nations International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", and that 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, including global water quality monitoring and assessment,

Recalling further paragraphs 122 and 124 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", which stresses the need to adopt measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality and recognizes the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality,

Recognizing the availability of international guidelines for drinking water quality, for agriculture and drainage, for waste water reuse and for other similar matters and the absence of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems,

Noting that water is essential for human life, the environment and the economy and thus action to protect water resources and promote its sustainable use is essential to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing that water is at the core of sustainable development and is closely linked to a number of key global challenges and reiterating therefore the importance of integrating water into sustainable development and underlining the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development as referred to in paragraph 119 of "The future we want",

Noting the alarming trends in water quality degradation and its negative impact on ecosystem functioning and human well being and development,

Noting also targets 8, 11 and 14 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding water pollution control for ecosystem conservation, *Recognizing* that there is a need for international water quality guidelines, which may be voluntarily used by Governments to maintain and improve the status of ecosystems to sustain the services they provide, as a possible basis for managing water pollution and water quality, as they affect ecosystems, and to support decision-making,

Recognizing also that water quality guidelines for ecosystems should be coherent and integrated, as appropriate, into existing guidelines related to water to promote its sustainable management,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, to develop international water quality guidelines for ecosystems that may be voluntarily used to support the development of national standards, policies and frameworks, taking into account existing information while integrating, as appropriate, all relevant aspects of water management;

2. *Encourages* Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations, including in the private sector, to participate actively in developing the water quality guidelines consistent with the preceding paragraph;

3. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so, including the private sector, to technically and financially support the process for the development of international water quality guidelines consistent with paragraph 1 of the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session on the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 27/4: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010,

Also recalling its decision 26/4 of 24 February 2011, by which it requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to convene a plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until its secretariat was established,

Further recalling that in decision 26/4 it invited the Executive Director to submit an offer of interest, to be considered along with other offers, subject to the procedures agreed during the above mentioned plenary meeting, signifying the interest of the United Nations Environment Programme in hosting or otherwise supporting the secretariat of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, *Noting* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/212 of 21 December 2012, welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its potential benefit to Governments, invited the early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers, and encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to become members of the Platform,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director,[4]

1. *Welcomes* the establishment, in April 2012, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

2. *Welcomes also* the outcome of the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Bonn from 21 to 26 January 2013, and takes note of the request of the Plenary of the Platform to the United Nations Environment Programme, in its decision IPBES/1/4, on administrative and institutional arrangements for the Platform, that the United Nations Environment Programme provide the Platform's secretariat, which will be solely accountable to the Platform Plenary on policy and programmatic matters and administrative arrangements in accordance with the rules of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Welcomes* the significant progress on modalities of the Platform, including efforts to achieve the early commencement of the work of the Platform made at the first session of the Platform Plenary;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, within available resources, to provide the secretariat and administrative arrangements in responding to decision IPBES/1/4, including the secondment of a professional officer to the Platform secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with decision I/4, to enter into a collaborative partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, for consideration by the Platform plenary, in order to enter into an institutional link with the Platform and its secretariat;

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director:

(a) To finalize a host country agreement with the Government of Germany for the presence of the Platform secretariat in Bonn;

(b) To make those arrangements necessary for the secretariat of the Platform to operate, with a view to having a functioning secretariat, at the latest, by the end of the second session of the Plenary;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to receive financial contributions that are provided for the Platform, until the Platform's trust fund is established;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit input and suggestions, following the procedures and guidance agreed by the Platform Plenary, and based on the findings of the fifth Global Environment Outlook report, to inform the development of the initial work programme of the Platform;

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[4] UNEP/GC.27/3.

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session.

Decision 27/5: Coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in enhancing coordination and collaboration across the United Nations system to achieve greater coherence in environmental activities,

Recalling its decision XII/2, on enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group,

Welcoming the efforts of the Executive Director, including in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, and those of the Group's members, in promoting cooperation and joint approaches across the United Nation system on environmental activities,

Expressing appreciation for the progress report prepared under the guidance of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their eighteenth meeting and as presented by the Executive Director,[5] including the strategic considerations of the Group in supporting the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", as well as its contribution to the post 2015 development agenda,

Commending the Group on its progress, and encouraging further work, in facilitating cooperation across the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including follow-up to the "The future we want" and in enhancing United Nations system-wide interagency coordination related to specific issues in the field of environment,

Welcoming in particular the Group's contribution to the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its decision to provide United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020),

Welcoming also the Group's focus and approach in ensuring that its future work supports the implementation of "The future we want",

1. *Supports* the Group's continued efforts to mainstream environmental considerations into activities at the policy, programme, management and operational levels in close cooperation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies;

2. *Urges* the Group to identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration at the country level between resident coordinators and non-resident agencies in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in line with "Delivering as One" and in the case of the United

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[5] UNEP/GC.27/12.

Nations Environment Programme with a view to an effective and efficient mainstreaming of environmental considerations at the country level;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director in his capacity as Chair of the Group, mainly through the Group and in line with paragraph 88 of the "The future we want", to develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the United Nations Secretary-General and Chief Executives Board to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels;

4. *Encourages* the Group to continue its support for the drylands agenda and preparation of a United Nations system wide action plan on drylands for the period 2012-2018 in follow-up to its report on drylands[6] and pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, for consideration of the action plan at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification;[7]

5. *Invites* the Group to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and to provide a progress report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its twelfth meeting;

6. *Encourages* the Group to continue its contribution to advancing sustainability in the work of the United Nations system, including on environmental sustainability management and peer reviews, and welcomes the decision to recommend to the Chief Executives Board a transfer of the Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System to the Chief Executives Board to ensure follow-up on all its dimensions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director in his capacity as Chair of the Group to provide a progress report on the Group's work to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;

8. *Invites* the Executive Director in his capacity as the Chair of the Group to transmit a progress report on the Group's work to the governing bodies of the Group's members.

Decision 27/6: Oceans

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 22/2 of 7 February 2003, on the regional seas strategies for sustainable development, decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, regarding the need for the development and strengthening of regional seas conventions and action plans in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements, and paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[8] adopted in Washington, D.C., on 3 November 1995, including requests to the United Nations Environment Programme that it support the Regional Seas Programme and promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

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[6] "Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response".

[7] ICCD/COP(10)/31/Add.1, decision 9/COP.10.

[8] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

Welcoming the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), expressed in the Conference's outcome document, "The future we want", paragraphs 158 177, on oceans and seas,

1. *Urges* countries to take the necessary steps to implement relevant and existing commitments, as well as commitments made at Rio+20, to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment in order to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development;

2. *Invites* member States of existing regional seas conventions and action plans:

(a) To take a more proactive role in all stages of the implementation of the programmes of work of their respective regional seas conventions and action plans and to develop "ownership" of those conventions and action plans;

(b) To utilize the regional seas conventions and action plans as platforms for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes and initiatives;

(c) To strengthen the capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans;

(d) To foster cross-sectoral governmental participation through the involvement of all relevant national ministries;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to further encourage and promote the United Nations Environment Programme's work on oceans and to incorporate the work of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans into the wider framework of the medium-term strategy 2014-2017 and its work programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, as appropriate and within available resources and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and with due respect for the autonomy of the decision-making bodies of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans to coordinate their work, as contained in the regional seas strategic directions 2013-2016, and to bring them to the attention of member States through relevant forums and areas of work.

Decision 27/7: Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production

The Governing Council,

Noting that resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production together constitute one of the six cross-cutting priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy for the period 2010-2013, *Recalling* its decision 22/6 of 7 February 2003, on the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, decision 26/5 of 24 February 2011, on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, and decision SS.XII/7 of 22 February 2012, on sustainable consumption and production,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and, through its paragraph 226, adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as contained in document A/CONF.216/5, which provides the guidance for the vision, objectives, goals, common values, functions, organizational structure, means of implementation and possible areas of sustainable consumption and production programmes,

Noting that in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) and 6 (b) of the 10 year framework of programmes the United Nations Environment Programme is to serve, within its current mandate, as the secretariat of the framework and was invited to establish a trust fund consisting of voluntary contributions for the implementation of the framework, in particular its programmes and initiatives,

Recalling that the framework includes an indicative, initial and non-exhaustive list of possible areas of programme development that builds on previous experience, including, inter alia, consumer information, sustainable lifestyles and education, sustainable public procurement, sustainable buildings and construction and sustainable tourism, including ecotourism,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly decided on the composition and nomination process of the small board called for in paragraph 4 (b) of the 10-year framework of programmes document and identified the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from that board and from the secretariat of the framework,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary action to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to serve as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes and to carry out its functions pursuant to paragraphs 4 (a) and 6 (b) of the framework;

2. *Recognizes* the functions of the small board established in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) and its nomination process in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/203 and authorizes the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to take the necessary action that may be requested by the board in carrying out its functions as specified in the above-mentioned paragraph of the framework;

3. *Recognizes* the function of the Economic and Social Council to act as the ad interim body to which the secretariat of the framework and the small board will report on a biennial and annual basis, respectively, in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) (viii) and 4 (b) (vi) of the framework document and authorizes the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to report on progress to the Economic and Social Council in its capacity as the ad interim reporting body;

4. *Encourages* the national focal points and other stakeholder focal points to participate in and contribute actively to the development and implementation of

the framework, ensuring coordination and cooperation with the board and the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 4 (d) of the framework document;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance cooperation with Member States in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (i) of the framework document, with all relevant United Nations bodies in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (ii) of that document, including through the establishment of an inter-agency coordinating group of relevant United Nations bodies, and with relevant international organizations and key stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (iii) of the document;

6. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the framework, enhancing efforts and building cooperation around the programmes of the Framework and technical assistance and capacity-building activities at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns;

7. *Invites* Governments, development agencies and the private sector to provide voluntary contributions for the implementation and operationalization of the framework and to its trust fund, established by the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize voluntary contributions from multiple sources, in accordance with paragraph 6 (b) of the framework document;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to elaborate a proposal on the duration of the subsequent terms of the board of the framework after it has served its initial two-year term for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Decision 27/8: Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document, "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), particularly Section III dealing with the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Acknowledging paragraph 62 of "The future we want", which encourages countries to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and noting that, as stated in paragraph 56 of the "The future we want", there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

Welcoming the publication of the report released by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2011 on the green economy entitled "Towards a Green Economy — Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of those countries that have endeavoured to promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication based on their countries' own circumstances and priorities, such as the

idea of ecological civilization, natural capital accounting, payment for ecosystem services, low-carbon economy and resource efficiency;

2. *Acknowledges* that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by Member States of the United Nations in order to achieve sustainable development, and in this regard takes note of the approach of Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development that can guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, within the Programme's existing mandate and available resources, to collect such initiatives, endeavours, practices and experiences on different approaches, visions, models and tools, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to disseminate them, and facilitate information sharing among countries, so as to support them to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication;

4. *Invites* countries to implement green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication taking into account section 3 of "The future we want".

Decision 27/9: Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 25/11 (I) concerning the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law,

Recalling the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and acknowledging the importance given to broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings in the outcome document, "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in regional and national regimes and processes,

Recalling the guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the guidelines for the development of domestic legislation on liability, response action and compensation for damage caused by activities dangerous to the environment, both adopted by the Governing Council in its decisions SS.XI/5 A and B,

Welcoming the important contributions made to sustainable development by environmental law and constitutional provisions and rights of some countries related to nature,

Noting that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, *Noting also* that offences against the environment, in particular trafficking in hazardous waste, wildlife and illegal timber, is increasingly committed by organized criminal groups and recalling that international cooperation at all levels in accordance with international law while respecting national jurisdictions contributes to combating those offences more effectively,

Recognizing the important contribution made by the legal and auditing community worldwide to the enforcement of standards and safeguards for environmental sustainability,

Noting General Assembly resolutions 67/1 of 24 September 2012 and 67/97 of 14 January 2013 on the rule of law at the national and international levels and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/19 on strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, which urges Member States to consider addressing transnational organized crimes that have a significant impact on the environment, including trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora,

Noting also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Noting the report of the Executive Director[9] and the information contained therein on the outcome of the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability,

Mindful of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, adopted by the Governing Council in 2009, which sets the strategy and a non-exhaustive list for United Nations Environment Programme activities to be taken in coordination with States and others in the development and implementation of environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010,

1. *Acknowledges* the work of chief justices, heads of jurisdiction, attorneys general, auditors general, chief prosecutors and other high-ranking representatives of the judicial, legal and auditing professions at the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, 17-20 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

2. *Notes* that an independent judiciary and judicial process are vital for the implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law;

3. *Emphasizes* that environmental and sustainability auditing are important in ensuring transparency, access to information, accountability and the efficient use of public finances while protecting the environment for future generations;

4. *Emphasizes also* that justice, including participatory decision-making, access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings as well as the protection of vulnerable groups from disproportionate adverse environmental impacts, should be seen as an intrinsic element of environmental sustainability;

5. *Recognizes* that the violation of environmental law has the potential to undermine sustainable development and the implementation of agreed environmental goals and objectives at all levels and that the rule of law and effective governance

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[9] UNEP/GC.27/13.

play an essential role in reducing such violations and invites Governments and relevant organizations to further strengthen mechanisms and explore initiatives for exchanging information and sharing experiences in order to reinforce international, regional and subregional cooperation to combat non-compliance with environmental laws, including, inter alia, measures to increase the effectiveness of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement mechanisms, institutions and laws in the field of environment as well as applicable education and training;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To lead the United Nations system and support national Governments upon their request in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law with attention at all levels to mutually supporting governance features, including information disclosure, public participation, implementable and enforceable laws, and implementation and accountability mechanisms including coordination of roles as well as environmental auditing and criminal, civil and administrative enforcement with timely, impartial and independent dispute resolution;

(b) To improve coherence and coordination, seek opportunities to collaborate and promote partnership with, and avoid duplication among, United Nations entities and other relevant entities working to promote improved environmental governance at the national level and to provide support for existing efforts and initiatives in coordination with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;

(c) To promote quality information and data exchange among the legal and auditing communities and improve education, capacity-building and technical assistance, including with the aim of strengthening effective national environmental governance systems and improving the effectiveness of rule of law systems;

(d) To encourage the further expansion of information sharing about environmental jurisprudence and the development of specialized expertise in environmental law among judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials;

(e) To promote the continued engagement in the work referred to above of judges, prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors, investigators, police, regulatory enforcement officials and other components of the environmental, legal and enforcement community and the institutions they represent, including associated networks, and exploring the possible establishment of an international institutional network;

7. *Invites* Governments to cooperate to build and support the capacity of courts and tribunals as well as prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors. investigators, police and regulatory enforcement officials at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement environmental law so as to promote effective domestic judiciary and enforcement institutions in environmental matters and to facilitate exchanges of best practices in order to achieve environmental sustainability, including through networks at the international and regional levels;

8. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the significant work and initiatives already undertaken by individual countries, international organizations and other entities to promote improved environmental governance at the national level;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision, as part of a report on the mid-term review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of

Environmental Law envisaged in decision 25/11 I, to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session.

Decision 27/10: Climate Technology Centre and Network

The Governing Council,

Recalling its mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, inter alia, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as adopted in its decision 23/1,

Recalling also decision 1/CP.16 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, establishing a Technology Mechanism consisting of a Technology Executive Committee and a Climate Technology Centre and Network,

Recalling further decision 2/CP.17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, detailing the mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network as to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies, to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, and to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development,

Recalling paragraphs 139-141 of decision 2/CP.17, on the provision of financial and other resources to the Climate Technology Centre and Network,

Recalling also annex VII to decision 2/CP.17, detailing the terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, including its governance structure, and stating that the Climate Technology Centre and Network shall operate within its terms of reference and be accountable to, and under the guidance of, the Conference of the Parties, through an advisory board,

Recalling further decision 14/CP.18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, selecting the United Nations Environment Programme as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network for an initial term of five years, with possible renewal if so decided by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session,

Noting that by the same decision the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Framework Convention and authorized the Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention secretariat to sign it, *Noting also* that by the same decision the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change established the advisory board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and requested the United Nations Environment Programme, as the host of the Centre and Network, to convene the first meeting of the advisory board as soon as possible in 2013, preferably prior to the thirty-eighth session of the Framework Convention subsidiary bodies,

Recalling annex I to decision 14/CP.18, which states that the United Nations Environment Programme has the mandate, among other things, to strengthen the ability of countries, in particular developing countries, to integrate climate change responses into their national development processes and specifically to reduce their vulnerability and build up their resilience to the impacts of climate change, to facilitate the transition to low-carbon societies, to facilitate access to climate change financing for clean technologies, to support both public and private financing mechanisms, to support national processes for implementing sustainable forest management plans, to improve the understanding of climate change science and its use in sound policy-making, and to improve the general understanding of climate change,

Having considered the report by the Executive Director,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to select the United Nations Environment Programme, as the leader of the consortium of partner institutions, as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network for an initial term of five years, and authorizes the Executive Director to provide the necessary arrangements for the operation of the Centre subject to the availability of financial resources and in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to sign the memorandum of understanding with the Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention secretariat referred to above and invites him to do so as a matter of urgency;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for the first meeting of the advisory board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

Decision 27/11: State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges

The Governing Council,

Mindful of its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation, and recalling its decisions 22/1 on early warning, assessment and monitoring, 23/6 and 24/2 on the world environmental situation and 25/2 on a policy relevant, integrated and scientifically credible global environmental assessment,

Recognizing the potential benefits of a scientifically sound and evidence-based detailed assessment of the state of the environment for awareness raising, informed policy formulation and decision-making for sustainable development, *Recognizing* that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of current data and information generation and dissemination and that there is an urgent need for Governments to take actions to bridge those gaps through the building of capacities, the strengthening of existing mechanisms for environmental assessments and monitoring and the use of established comparable methods for data collection and analysis, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including capacity-building and technology support,

Acknowledging the important role that the UNEP Year Book has played over the past 10 years in bringing emerging issues and challenges to the attention of policymakers,

Welcoming the publication of the fifth Global Environment Outlook assessment report, *GEO 5: Global Environment Outlook: Environment for the future we want*, on 6 June 2012 by the Executive Director, including its summary for policymakers, negotiated and endorsed at the Intergovernmental Meeting on 31 January 2012 in Gwangju, Republic of Korea,

Acknowledging that the findings in *GEO-5* and its summary for policymakers based on scientific evidence are a valuable contribution to facilitating informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and to strengthening the science-policy interface,

Appreciating the guidance and high-level input of the High-Level Intergovernmental Advisory Panel as well as the Science and Policy Advisory Board, the coordinating lead authors, lead authors, contributing authors and reviewers who provided support for the preparation of *GEO-5* and its summary for policymakers,

Taking note of the publication *Measuring Progress: Environmental Goals and Gaps*, which is based on *GEO-5* and shows the progress made towards selected internationally agreed environmental goals, and its potentially useful contribution to the elaboration of sustainable development goals by Governments and the post-2015 development agenda, as foreseen in the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want",

Acknowledging the Rio+20 outcome document, in particular its paragraph 88, calling for a strengthened and upgraded United Nations Environment Programme, and its paragraph 90, calling for strengthened assessment activities and improved access to data and information, and noting the need to integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development and to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information on critical and emerging economic, environmental and social issues,

Welcoming the progress made during the first phase of the design and development of the prototype proof-of-concept for UNEP-Live as an initiative to significantly enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the future approach to keeping the world environment situation under review, including capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their data collection and assessment efforts and ensure that data collected and information generated are made available to policymakers and the public,

Also welcoming the proposal in the programme of work for 2014-2015 for a gender and environment outlook that would use social science information and gender sensitive indicators to review gender-environment links and guide policy actions towards gender equality,

Further welcoming the continued development of the Eye on Earth network and the implementation of the Eye on Earth special initiatives, in particular the partnerships developing through the Eye on Global Network of Networks Special Initiative as a major contribution to UNEP Live,

Noting the progress made on the design and development of the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) as an initiative to identify research gaps and meet policy needs in respect of climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation,

Also noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 26/14 on the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the decision,

Further noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and specifically the release in 2011 of two special reports, entitled "Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation" (SRREN) and "Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation" (SREX), as well as the progress made in the preparation of the Panel's fifth assessment report, due for release in 2013-2014,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, through a number of recent decisions, has reiterated the relevance and role of the Panel's assessments for its current and future work,

Appreciating the work of the International Resource Panel, which contributes to a strengthened science-policy interface and knowledge base in key areas of resource use and management,

Acknowledging that the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is an important global policy framework for reversing the ongoing decline in biodiversity and ecosystem services identified in *GEO-5*,

Welcoming the Global Chemicals Outlook and its Synthesis Report for Decision Makers, as well as related activities on the cost of inaction,

I
Assessments

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to review best practices and develop a set of transparent procedures, particularly with regard to administrative processes, the selection of participants the inclusion of diverging view points, as well as government and peer reviews to support a wide range of environmental assessments that the United Nations Environment Programme conducts in order to ensure that they are of the highest quality and have maximum impact. These procedures should be based on the knowledge and experience of nationally recognized experts and current best assessment practices should be provided to member states for comments. Those procedures relevant to the sixth Global Environment Outlook assessment should be prioritized to feed into its preparation and should be provided to Member States for review and comment in time for the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook assessment;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to build on the capacities developed during the *GEO-5* process and other thematic and integrated assessments at the national, regional and global levels. This should be done by compiling and making available the key best practice assessment procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, with their different purposes, strengths and weaknesses, to all stakeholders;

II

Global Environment Outlook

1. *Welcomes* the enhanced policy relevance of the Global Environment Outlook as a result of its identifying policy options, taking into account different approaches and visions to achieve sustainable development, and making every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including through informing relevant global and regional processes;

2. Invites Governments to use the findings of *GEO-5* (*Environment for the Future We Want*) and its summary for policymakers to facilitate informed policy decision-making at all levels in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the policy relevance of Global Environment Outlook reports by measuring the progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and targets and to inform relevant global processes and meetings where progress towards these agreed goals and targets will be discussed;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the private sector and civil society, to convene an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation as soon as practicable and before mid-2014 to determine the objectives, scope and process for the next Global Environment Outlook assessment, taking into account progress made with UNEP-Live and acknowledging the potential to contribute to the process for developing the global sustainable development report by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development called for in paragraph 85 of "The future we want";

III

Strengthening sustainable development

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, building on the Global Environment Outlook, to continue work at the national, regional and global levels to promote the science-policy interface through inclusive, scientifically sound, evidence-based and transparent thematic and integrated assessments, taking into consideration diverse knowledge systems, as well as access to reliable, relevant and timely data and information, and making such data and information available to UNEP Live for access by policymakers and the public;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue promoting access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas related to the United Nations Environment Programme's mandate aiming at reinforcing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the elaboration of the sustainable development goals in accordance with the outcome document of Rio+20 and invites it to provide technical input in relation to global environmental goals;

4. *Looks forward* to the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme on the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross-domestic product;

IV
UNEP-Live

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement the next phase of UNEP-Live during the 2014-2015 biennium as an open platform in continued alignment with relevant environmental information systems designed for global, regional and national environmental assessment and data sharing;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake and encourage capacity-building activities to ensure that developing countries and countries with economies in transition are able to work with UNEP-Live and contribute to scientifically sound evidence-based environmental assessment processes;

3. *Invites* Member States, major groups and stakeholders and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to engage in the development of UNEP-Live and in particular the implementation of the online state-of-environment reporting capabilities by increasingly sharing relevant data, information and indicators through open platforms;

4. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide funding to support the full and effective implementation of technology support and capacity-building programmes to support environmental monitoring and data and information management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a progress report on UNEP-Live to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;

V
Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, working in close collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to further develop the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) and to provide a status report at the thirteenth special session of the Governing Council[10] in 2014;

2. *Invites* Member States, the international scientific community and centres of excellence to participate in PROVIA to mobilize and communicate the growing knowledge base on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation;

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[10] Hereinafter, any reference to the Governing Council shall be understood to refer to the name of the main governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

3. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide funding and other means of support, as appropriate, for PROVIA so that the initiative can move from the design and development phase to an operational phase and enhance its effectiveness and its work from the global to the national levels;

VI
Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)

1. *Expresses* gratitude to the Government of Canada for its support for the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water) over the years and requests the Executive Director working in close collaboration with Member States to identify a new host country for GEMS/Water;

2. *Invites* Member States, the international scientific community and centres of excellence to participate in GEMS/Water to improve the global coverage and consistency of water quality data, expand the GEMS/Water network of national and collaborating focal points, and improve data submission to the GEMStat global database and access of users to water quality data;

3. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide sustainable financial and in-kind support to GEMS/Water for its global coordination/management unit and global network, GEMStat and the implementation of technology support and capacity development activities for water quality monitoring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

VII
Climate change

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the process of consideration and implementation of the recommendations issued in August 2010 by the InterAcademy Council as part of its review of the processes and procedures of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including a number of important decisions related to the Panel's governance and management, procedures, conflict of interest policy and development of a communication-strategy;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue providing support for the work of the Panel and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation with it in line with the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in assessing the world environment situation, as reiterated in the Rio+20 outcome document;

VIII
Biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as highlighted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eleventh meeting, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 towards attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the national level, as highlighted by Parties to the Convention at the eleventh meeting;

2. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in particular decisions XI/3 and XI/4 on review of the

implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the strategy for resource mobilization;

3. *Welcomes* progress made at the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide support for the work of the Platform in accordance with its decisions adopted at the current session.

Decision 27/12: Chemicals and waste management

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

Welcoming the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want",

Recalling its decisions 26/3 and 26/12 and other relevant decisions on chemicals and wastes, and having considered the reports by the Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5 and on chemicals and waste management,[11]

Recalling also its decision 16/34 calling for the establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre, based on the agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Japan, and welcoming the enhanced role of the Centre as a focus for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment and reaffirming the commitment of Governments to an approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges and encouraging further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and underlining the value of the continuing cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations and observers of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Recognizing the growing significance of hazardous waste management for sustainable development due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and the technical and other challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

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[11] UNEP/GC.27/8 and UNEP/GC.27/4.

Recognizing also that the actions called for in the present decision are supportive of and consistent with commitments of countries to the sound management of chemicals and wastes,

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1. *Welcomes* paragraphs 213 to 223 of the "The future we want", relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste and the reaffirmation of the aim to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste;

2. *Invites* all stakeholders to support the sound management of chemicals and waste as an important contribution to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

3. *Recognizes* the significance of the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook, which highlighted the significant increase in the manufacture and use of chemicals globally, their importance to national and global economies and the costs and negative effects on human health and the environment of unsound chemicals management and made recommendations for future action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, and to enhance transparency through regionally balanced stakeholder involvement, inter alia, with a view to developing in the future a tool for assessing progress towards the achievement of the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the existing 2020 goal, taking into account and building upon other existing sources of information;

5. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to promote safer, effective alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and to adopt measures to prevent industrial chemical accidents and unintended releases and emissions in order to prevent rather than remediate risks;

6. *Invites* Governments that have not already done so to ratify the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements and urges those countries that have ratified them to implement their obligations fully;

II
Lead and cadmium

1. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by Governments and others to address the risks posed by lead and cadmium, in particular to phase out lead from gasoline and paint through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, respectively, and urges Governments to continue participating in and contributing to those initiatives and to consider initiatives to encourage the development of more affordable and safer alternatives;

2. *Emphasizes* that further actions are needed to address the challenges posed by lead and cadmium and encourages Governments and others to continue efforts to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from lead and cadmium throughout the life cycles of those substances, taking into consideration the specific environmental, economic and social conditions and challenges of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue activities on lead and cadmium and to enhance them within the existing mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to make available information on techniques for emissions abatement and on the possibility of replacing lead and cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques and requests the Executive Director to compile such information and make it available on the United Nations Environment Programme website for the use of all stakeholders, noting that, where appropriate, use should be made of existing mechanisms like the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management clearing house mechanism when making information available;

III
Mercury

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury, which was accomplished prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as requested in paragraph 26 of decision 25/5;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries for the purpose of adopting and opening for signature the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Japan to host the conference of plenipotentiaries;

3. *Calls on* Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the conference of plenipotentiaries;

4. *Encourages* States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification, and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once adopted, with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide an interim secretariat to the instrument prior to its entry into force;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to inform the diplomatic conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury about possible options available for the interim secretariat;

7. *Recognizes* that the decision on interim secretariat arrangements will be taken by the conference of plenipotentiaries and that it is for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to decide on secretariat arrangements;

8. *Urges* the Executive Director through an interim secretariat of the instrument to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing regarding the instrument;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force and to provide interim support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries;

10. *Appeals* to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support early action designed to facilitate ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and further to provide financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Minamata Convention, in conformity with relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries, for the period until the end of the financial period in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention takes place, and welcomes with appreciation the contributions already made, including from China, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, for those purposes;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to take immediate action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership, urges all partners to continue their efforts and urges Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support, participate in, and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide the necessary support to the Global Mercury Partnership;

13. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account any relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries and consider ways of supporting their implementation;

14. *Invites* Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to use the opportunity of their extraordinary meetings from 28 April to 10 May 2013 to consider steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to forward any outcome of that consideration to the conference of plenipotentiaries;

15. *Acknowledges* the 2013 update of the 2008 report from the Executive Director, "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport",[12] and requests the Executive Director to provide a further update within six years;

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[12] UNEP/GC.27/INF/14.

IV
Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

1. *Welcomes* the decision adopted at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to extend the term for the receipt of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of the Conference and to allow the distribution of funding until all approved projects are completed and requests the Executive Director to extend the operations of the Trust Fund accordingly;

2. *Welcomes also* the adoption, at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, of the strategy for the engagement of the health-care sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to give full support to the Strategic Approach secretariat and to give it the necessary support to develop orientation and guidance to implement the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management;

4. *Notes with concern* the withdrawal of staffing support to the Strategic Approach secretariat by the World Health Organization due to financial constraints and invites the World Health Assembly to consider reinstating the support of the World Health Organization, at the earliest date possible, to continue to provide health expertise within the Strategic Approach secretariat;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolutions at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on international cooperative actions on emerging policy issues and requests the Executive Director to provide leadership, in partnership with others, on endocrine disrupting chemicals, chemicals in products and perfluorinated chemicals and in this regard also acknowledges the 2012 joint United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization report on endocrine disrupting chemicals and requests the Executive Director to submit to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its regular session following the next session a report on progress and implementation;

6. *Urges* all relevant stakeholders to engage in effective implementation of the Strategic Approach throughout the materials life cycle and encourages enhanced engagement, particularly of intermediate and end users, in the Strategic Approach;

7. *Underlines* the importance of mainstreaming activities for sound chemicals management at the national level and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, as reflected in the Global Chemicals Outlook report, and requests the Executive Director to continue and expand work to facilitate country implementation of mainstreaming activities;

8. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and others in a position to do so to make financial and in kind contributions to the Strategic Approach, its Quick Start Programme, its secretariat and its implementation, including through the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

V
Waste management

Requests the Executive Director to review existing efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste, to develop a Programme-wide waste strategy to prioritize its work and to make recommendations on existing and future areas of United Nations Environment Programme work on wastes, taking care to not duplicate efforts under way in other forums;

Also requests the Executive Director to develop a global outlook of challenges, trends and policies in relation to waste prevention, minimization and management, taking into account the materials life cycle, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in consultation with Governments and stakeholders, building on available data, best practices and success stories, taking into account the Global Chemicals Outlook and any other relevant initiatives and taking care not to duplicate existing information, to provide guidance for national policy planning;

Welcomes the progress in establishing the Global Partnership on Waste Management hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme International Environmental Technology Centre and requests the Executive Director to continue to facilitate, including through this Partnership, cooperation and coordination across international efforts focusing on waste prevention, minimization, and management, taking into account the materials life-cycle and planning and implementing environmentally sound and integrated waste management strategies and activities;

Encourages the Executive Director to collaborate closely with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in pursuit of mutual objectives with regard to the sound management of waste, including support for capacity-building in relation to priority waste streams;

VI
Persistent organic pollutants

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken to date and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide coordination of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control in accordance with the invitation received from the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

2. *Urges* the World Health Organization to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the workplan of the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to inform the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the progress made in the work of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

VII
Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

1. *Notes* the progress made and the activities carried out to date by the Executive Director in the implementation of decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate and support an inclusive, country driven consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term and to present a report on the outcome of that consultative process to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session and encourages Governments to enhance efforts in this area;

VIII
Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

1. *Welcomes* an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes;

2. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Executive Director on his vision for making operational an integrated approach on financing sound management of chemicals and wastes;[13]

3. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders to apply an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and wastes in their efforts to mobilize and manage financial resources for the sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels;

4. *Also invites* Governments to implement actions to further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and wastes in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;

5. *Further invites* Governments to implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for sound chemicals and wastes management, and the promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle;

6. *Invites* all countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external financing through the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources so as to support developing countries in their efforts to implement sound management of chemicals and wastes;

7. *Invites* all Governments to involve relevant ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary support, upon request, to Governments, especially those from developing countries, and

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[13] UNEP/GC.27/7.

collaborate with relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders, as appropriate, towards the implementation of an integrated approach;

9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take steps to implement, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider, an integrated approach for the purposes of the respective conventions, as appropriate;

10. *Invites* the International Conference on Chemicals Management to take steps to implement an integrated approach;

11. *Invites* the governing bodies of international development agencies, international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to take steps to implement, within their mandates, an integrated approach;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility in the context of its sixth replenishment process to revise its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and wastes agenda and to consider ways of further strengthening its relations with the conventions it serves as a financial mechanism;

13. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, noting that each respective governing body would have to determine the participation of its entity in the special programme;

14. *Emphasizes* that the special programme referred to in the preceding paragraph should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting of governments and regional economic integration organizations, open to interested stakeholders, including potential donors, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Strategic Approach, to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme, including:

(a) A definition of institutional strengthening;

(b) The duration of the special programme;

(c) Clear parameters and eligibility criteria;

(d) Practical arrangements necessary to make the special programme operational;

16. *Decides* that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session;

17. *Notes* that present decision does not pre-empt the decision of the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the specific international programme referred to in the text of that Convention;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate an evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach, which should be done in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and to submit the evaluation, including recommendations, within six years for consideration by the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, the relevant conferences of the parties and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme within three years a report on the implementation of the integrated approach;

IX

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;

2. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 27/13: Proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014-2017 and biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015[14]

The Governing Council,[9]

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for 2014-2017[15] and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014-2015[16] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[17]

Noting General Assembly resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012, by which the General Assembly strengthened the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking note of the United Nations Board of Auditors report for the period 2010-2011,

Affirming that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2014-2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

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[14] The present decision does not take into consideration possible budgetary implications of the forthcoming decisions by the Governing Council on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure.

[15] UNEP/GC.27/9.

[16] UNEP/GC.27/10.

[17] UNEP/GC.27/10/Add.1.

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 245 million United States dollars, of which 110 million dollars is allocated to 2014 and a maximum of 122 million dollars is allocated to defraying post costs for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014-2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

A. Executive direction and management	7 794
B. Programme of work	209 394
1. Climate change	39 510
2. Disasters and conflicts	17 886
3. Ecosystem management	36 831
4. Environmental governance	21 895
5. Chemicals and waste	31 175
6. Resource efficiency	45 329
7. Environment under review	16 768
C. Fund programme reserve	12 500
D. Programme support	15 312
Total	**245 000**

3. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations that have taken place between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives[18] on the preparation of the draft medium term strategy for the period 2014-2017 and the draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for comprehensive information regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives[17] well in advance of consideration of the programme of work and budget, and requests the Executive Director to hold timely consultations on the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets prior to transmittal to other appropriate bodies;

5. *Acknowledges* the progress on the implementation of the medium-term strategy 2010 2013, as described in the programme performance report;[19]

6. *Also acknowledges* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the 2014-2015 programme;

7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of those mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to consult the subsidiary body[17] regarding any allocation above that contained in the programme of work and budget approved by the Governing Council;[9]

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[18] Hereinafter, any reference to the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be understood to refer to the appropriate intersessional body of the Governing Council.

[19] UNEP/GC.27/INF/6/Add.1.

8. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the budget lines mentioned in paragraph 2 above in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;[17]

9. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives,[17] the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them in line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

10. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2016-2017;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of the resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the current emphasis on the achievement of results for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency through the implementation of best practices;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives,[17] on a yearly basis, and to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme[11] at its regular and special sessions, on the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to continue to report to Governments, through the Committee of the Permanent Representatives,[17] in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with its programme performance reporting;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize regular briefings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives[17] on the programme and budget performance of each subprogramme to enable the Committee[17] to perform its monitoring task adequately;

17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds which are governed by other intergovernmental bodies and for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat functions;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on proposed revisions to the financial rules and general procedures of the Environment Fund[20] and acknowledges the need for a timely and efficient transition to International Public Sector Accounting Standards and other revisions to the financial rules that may be

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[20] UNEP/GC.27/14/Rev.1.

required to improve the United Nations Environment Programme's efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and responsiveness and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant United Nations bodies and the Committee of Permanent Representatives,[17] to take action and submit a report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme[9] at its next session;

19. *Notes* that the work programme and budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is part of a continuing process and that the allocation of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme will be approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme[9] at its next session on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014-2015, taking into account the latest information on funding and projected expenditures;

21. *Recalls* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", stating that the United Nations Environment Programme should have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate, and calls for an allocation from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme that takes into account the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)-(h) of the "The future we want",[21] as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the delivery of the programme of work supports and brings together regional and national programmes and activities in the medium term strategy for the period 2014-2017 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015 and takes into account regional priorities and regional frameworks, where they exist, and also requests the Executive Director to include information on regional programmes and activities by region in the progress report on the implementation of the work programme;

23. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, requests the Secretary-General in the preparation of his 2014-2015 budget submission to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme under review, as well as those of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to permit the effective delivery of necessary services;

24. *Urges* donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Environment Programme to take actions so as to better reflect Governments' capacity to contribute to the Environment Fund;

26. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in, the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund and requests the Executive Director to

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[21] A/Res/66/288, annex.

adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions in the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with decisions SS.VII/1 and any subsequent decisions;

27. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Environment Programme to take action to strengthen and broaden the donor base of the Environment Fund;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives,[17] a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that continues to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted respectively to post costs and non-post costs while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities;

29. *Takes note* of the note by the Executive Director on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and those multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat[22] and the undertaking to provide a full report on this issue by 30 June 2013, and requests the Executive Director, in so doing, to deepen consultations with those multilateral environmental agreements, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Board of Auditors and other appropriate bodies and to submit the final report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session and to the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements;

30. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of its decision 19/32 and requests the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat provides documentation and information related to the programme of work, budget and medium term strategy to the Committee of Permanent Representatives[17] at least four weeks in advance of the meeting at which it is to be considered.

Decision 27/14: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions[23]

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[24]

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[22] UNEP/GC.27/INF/20.

[23] CFL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environment Protection of China and UNEP and PGL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) have been inserted under section 1 operative paragraph 1 (b) by the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat in the finalization of the present document.

[24] UNEP/GC.27/11/Rev.1.

I

Trust Funds in support of the United Nations Environment Programme programme of work

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council:

A. General trust funds

SLP — Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017.

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) AFB — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for United Nations Environment Programme Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 31 December 2014;

(b) CFL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the United Nations Environment Programme, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

(c) ECL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Achievement of Contribution Agreement N° 21.0401/2011/608174/SUB/E2 — Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission — Directorate General of the Environment and — and the United Nations Environment Programme (covering ENRTP Priority 3.1 — Strengthening Environment Governance), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 31 December 2018;

(d) EAP — Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, which was established in 2011 with no expiry date;

(e) EUL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Achievement of Contribution Agreement N° DCI-ENV/2010/258-800 — Strategic Cooperation Agreement between European Commission — Directorate General for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme (covering ENRTP Priorities 1, 2 and 3.3. — Support for Mainstreaming), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 5 December 2020;

(f) NPL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Management of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund, which was established in 2011 with no expiry date;

(g) PGL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), which was established in January 2013 with no expiry date;

(h) SCP — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 23 January 2023;

2. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or donors:

C. General trust funds

(a) AML — General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(b) CWL — General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(c) MCL — General Trust Fund in support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(d) SML — General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(e) WPL — General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

D. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) AFB — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for United Nations Environment Programme Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(b) BPL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(c) ESS — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA), which is extended through 31 December 2018;

(d) CIL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Remediation Activities Following the Toxic Waste incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(e) GNL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(f) IAL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(g) IEL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Priority Projects to Improve the Environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Republic of Korea), which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(h) MDL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(i) REL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region (Financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(j) SEL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(k) SFL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between Spain and the United Nations Environment Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

II

Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds

3. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust fund since the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council:

CAP — Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and Related Protocols, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of December 2014;

4. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

A. General trust funds

(a) AVL — General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(b) AWL — General Trust Fund for the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(c) BAL — General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltics, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(d) BCL — Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(e) BDL — Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(f) BEL — General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(g) BGL — General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(h) BHL — Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(i) BYL — General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(j) BZL — General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(k) CAP — Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(l) CRL — Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(m) CTL — Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended through 31 December 2017;

(n) EAL — Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(o) ESL — Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(p) MEL — Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(q) MSL — Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(r) MVL — General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(s) PNL — General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(t) ROL — General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(u) WAL — Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) BIL — Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the

Small Island Developing States among them and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(b) RVL — Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(c) VBL — Voluntary Trust Fund to facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds and to propose steps which could be taken to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining these trust funds.

Decision 27/15: Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 66/288 of July 2012 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9-11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009 and 65/245 (paragraph 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010,

Taking into account its own decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

1. *Decides* to hold the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme[25] at its headquarters in Nairobi;[26]

2. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to contribute to the preparation of the draft provisional agenda for the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

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[25] Designation is to be determined subject to adoption of resolution by the General Assembly on this matter. Dates to be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the governing body and Member States.

[26] Designation is to be determined subject to adoption of resolution by the General Assembly on this matter.

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